

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4812

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 06334

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, AG, SP

SUBJECT: OREJA-BOUTEFLIKA MEETING IN NEW YORK

1. THE UNEXPECTED--AND UNEXPECTEDLY LONG (TWO AND A HALF HOURS)--MEETING JUNE 3 IN NEW YORK BETWEEN ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUFLIKI AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA HAS GIVEN RISE TO CAREFUL BUT NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL COMMENT IN THE SPANISH PRESS REGARDING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE PROGRESS ON THE SAHARA AND CANARIES ISSUES. OREJA HIMSELF WAS OBVIOUSLY WARY IN HIS REMARKS TO REPORTERS FOLLOWING THE MEETING, CALLING IT "FRANK AND USEFUL", ASSERTING THAT IT HAD SERVED TO "CLEAR AWAY THE DEBRIS" IN THE PATH TOWARD A FUTURE NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT REFUSING FURTHER COMMENT OTHER THAN TO ADD THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUAREZ-BOUMEDIENE MEETING AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE HAD NOT BEEN DISCARDED, ALTHOUGH NEITHER HAD IT BEEN AGREED ON.

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2. IN CONVERSATION WITH US JUNE 5, OREJA'S CHIEF OF CABINET (FERNANDEZ DE SOIGNIE), WHO WENT WITH HIM TO NEW YORK, WAS EQUALLY CAUTIOUS. THE LONG MEETING HAD INCLUDED A GENERAL REVIEW OF WORLD SITUATIONS AND ISSUES, HE SAID, AS WELL AS SPECIFIC TREATMENT OF THE SAHARA AND CANARIES ISSUES, THE LATTER INCLUDING THE OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM IN JULY. THE MEETING HAD

INDEED SERVED TO "UN-BLOCK" COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND "CLARIFY" CURRENT BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE SAID, BUT IT HAD NOT BEEN "DEFINITIVE", AND WHILE FURTHER STEPS WERE POSSIBLE, NOTHING HAD YET BEEN SET UP.

3. COMMENT: THE MFA AND ITS CHIEF, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE TAKEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HEAT REGARDING THE HANDLING OF THE CANARIES PROBLEM, ARE CLEARLY WARY OF LETTING MUCH HOPE BUILD UP BEFORE WHAT MAY TURN OUT TO BE ANOTHER SET-BACK ON THE ALGERIA/CANARIES FRONT. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP FURTHER ON THIS AND IN THE MEANWHILE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW THE GOA IS PLAYING THE OREJA-BOUDEFLLIKA MEETING. EATON

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